

MONUMENTAL MOTOR CAR COMPANY SHOWROOM
(ODORITE Building)
Mount Royal & Maryland Avenues, southeast corner
Baltimore
Independent City
Maryland

HABS MD-1186
HABS MD-1186

PHOTOGRAPHS

PAPER COPIES OF COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

MONUMENTAL MOTOR CAR COMPANY (Odorite Building)

HABS No. MD-1186

Location: 21 West Mount Royal Ave. (Southeast corner of Mount Royal and Maryland Avenues), Baltimore, Baltimore County, Maryland

Present Owner: University of Baltimore

Present Use: Demolished, 2004

Significance: Built c. 1916, the Monumental Motor Car Company showroom was a rare surviving example of a pre-World War I automobile showroom. The building combined a modern concrete post and beam structural system with Tudor Revival decorative motifs.

Description: The former Monumental Motor Car Company showroom was a two story plus basement post-and-beam concrete structure built during the second decade of the twentieth century. Surviving Tudor Revival exterior and interior details and materials indicate an Arts and Crafts influence, creating a combination of modern structure and function with historical decoration typical of early twentieth century commercial architecture. When visited in 2003 the building was structurally sound with some water damage and extensive peeling paint. Many historic features were covered by later office partitions and acoustic tile drop ceilings, but still intact.

History: This early automobile showroom was built c. 1916 and designed by the architectural firm of Smith and May for the Monumental Motor Car Company. The Monumental Motor Car Company was one of many short-lived, boutique automobile brands in the early years of automobile production. In this period many automobile-related business were located on or near Mount Royal Avenue. The wealthy clientele for these businesses lived in the nearby Mount Vernon neighborhood.

The building was used a cleaning supplies warehouse by the Odorite Company for many years. In 2004 it was demolished by the University of Baltimore for construction of a new student center.

Historian: Lisa Pfueller Davidson